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Intellectual Property

A Word About this List

Being a paid observer of the legal industry brings us a lot of enriching moments. But the absolute best part about our job is watching brilliant people facilitate creative ideas so that they blossom into real solutions. Nowhere is this more evident than in the intellectual property arena, in which lawyers draft and defend patents, copyrights and trademarks for medical cures, technological innovations and, of course, great entertainment.

This is the fourth year the Daily Journal has published a Top Intellectual Property Lawyers list. In putting it together, editors read hundreds of nominations from lawyers. We also consult Daily Journal reporters who cover this field and read our coverage of the practice.

To qualify, the lawyer must be based in California but his or

her work can be anywhere. Many of the litigators practice in the Eastern District of Texas but they also have cases in other federal districts and before the Federal Trade Commission in Washington, D.C. Portfolio managers work for companies in every corner of the globe.

The most important criterion for making the list is the impact of the work. How has this work affected an industry or society? Did it create or save jobs? Did it help bring to market a cure? Save a technological innovation?

The result is a lively mix of people doing fascinating work. There are tech gurus, science nerds and glitzy Hollywood folks. Read on. Get to know them.

—The Editors

25 PORTFOLIO MANAGERS, PROSECUTORS AND LICENSE SPECIALISTS



DANIEL N. YANNUZZI

Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP
San Diego

Communications and semiconductors

Yannuzzi's practice is two-fold; it involves patent counseling and dealmaking.

On the one hand, he walks clients through patent portfolio strategy and he serves as their advocate in reexaminations at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

On the other hand, he analyzes intellectual property when companies buy competitors or acquire another firm's technology, and he negotiates deal points related to patent rights.

Yannuzzi also conducts intellectual property due diligence for venture capital investors.

"I have a bachelor's and a master's degree in electrical engineering and I worked for NASA designing communications for the shuttle program and other space programs," he said. "I have a background in communications and semiconductors, so a lot of my work is focused in that area."

Yannuzzi handled the reexamination of M Ship Co.'s patents related to its technology in the M80 Stiletto for the U.S. Navy. In another reexamination, he garnered a unanimous decision from a three-judge panel of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in favor of Mitchell International, Inc.'s patent application for software and processes for administering, tracking and managing automotive insurance claims.

For Performance Designed Products LLC, Yannuzzi developed a patent portfolio that protects against knock-off patents for the company's video game technology. He's also the lead attorney developing an intellectual property portfolio with more than 60 patent applications for Olympus Corp.'s wireless technology.

In a deal that involved third-party intellectual property rights, pre-existing license agreements and other patent concerns, Yannuzzi represented Medtronic Inc. in its acquisition of vascular technology. He's also handling a patent reexamination for Medtronic.

"On the transaction side, it's no secret to anybody that when the recession hit there were not as many acquisitions or initial public offerings," Yannuzzi said. "That's turned around. I'm working on a number of acquisitions, one of which is going to be a multibillion-dollar deal."

Some companies refocused their patent portfolios, and some larger companies filed fewer patent applications, but he said that trend reversed its course and patent filings are getting back to their regular pace.

—Mandy Jackson